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News Release

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CANTALOUPE ACREAGE UP WHILE WATERMELON ACREAGE IS DOWN

SOUTH CAROLINA'S summer fresh market vegetable producers plan to harvest 7,000 acres of **watermelons** during the June through September 2011 harvesting period, according to the USDA NASS, South Carolina Field Office. This year's harvested acreage projection is down 13 percent from last summer's 8,000 acres. Fresh market producers plan to harvest 1,400 acres of **cantaloupes**, up 17 percent from 2010.

U. S. FRESH VEGETABLE HARVESTED AREA UP 1 PERCENT

The prospective area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the summer quarter is forecast to be 269,300 acres, up 1 percent from last year. Acreage increases in carrots, cauliflower, sweet corn, and head lettuce more than offset acreage declines in snap beans, cabbage, celery, bell peppers, and tomatoes. Broccoli and cucumber area remains unchanged. Area forecast for melon harvest is 84,700 acres, down 7 percent from last year. Cantaloupe area is forecast at 25,800 acres, 9 percent below 2010. Honeydew area, at 7,700 acres, is down 11 percent from last year. Watermelon area, at 51,200 acres, is down 6 percent from a year ago.

SC CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES ACREAGE UNCHANGED FROM 2010

SOUTH CAROLINA'S producers have planted or expect to plant 2,000 contract acres of **cucumbers for pickles**, unchanged from 2010.

PROCESSED VEGETABLE CONTRACTED AREA DOWN 8 PERCENT

Vegetable processors have contracted 1.02 million acres to be planted to the 5 major vegetable crops (snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers for pickles, green peas, and tomatoes). This is down 8 percent from last year. Reported acreage declined for all 5 major processed vegetable crops. Contracted green pea acreage at 162,300 is down 13 percent. Green pea contracted production forecast, at 302,090 tons, is down 16 percent from 2010. Contracted tomato production is forecast at 12.8 million tons, up 1 percent from 2010.